



**Dean A. Lerner, Director**

**Critical Access Hospitals May Exceed Bed Limits During Emergency**

DES MOINES, IOWA (Updated Tuesday, June 17, 2008) - The Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) has received notification from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) may exceed their 25-bed limitation and 96 hour average length of stay during the public health emergency. CAHs must notify DIA when patients received and admitted from the declared counties would result in the CAH exceeding its 25-bed limit. Notification to DIA must include:

- Name and location of the CAH;
- Reason to exceed the 25-bed limit;
- Estimated number of anticipated admissions exceeding the 25-bed limit; and
- Date that the 25-bed limit was first exceeded.

When determining the 25-bed limit, CAHs should not include those patients received and admitted from a county under a Presidential Declaration (both individual assistance and public assistance). A complete list of counties under a Presidential Declaration may be found on the 2008 Flood Resource Center web site at <http://flood2008.iowa.gov>.

To notify DIA of admissions exceeding the 25-bed limit or 96 hour average length of stay and to obtain information about the process, CAHs must contact Mary Spracklin at (515) 281-0286 or (515) 669-6027, or by e-mail at [Mary.Spracklin@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:Mary.Spracklin@dia.iowa.gov).

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A copy of this notice, as well as a copy of the Secretary Leavitt's Declaration of a Public Health Emergency and the 1135 Waiver can be found on the Department's Hot Notices web page at [www.dia.iowa.gov/page20.html](http://www.dia.iowa.gov/page20.html).

*CAHs Hot Notice.2*